

03 RUHGSAA8144 UNCLAS,  
(CULTURAL RADIATION HAZARDS)

ENEWETAK, MAR. 22 (MNS)---ERDA SPOKESMAN ROGER RAY TOLD VISITING NEWSMEN AFTER THE FIRST ENEWETAKESE RETURNED TO JAPTAN ISLAND THAT THE POTENTIAL CULTURAL IMPACT ON THE RETURN IS MORE HAZARDOUS TO THEIR WELL-BEING THAN ANY RADIATION ON THE ISLAND.

RAY EXPLAINED THAT AN IN-DEPTH RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ENEWETAK ATOLL WAS COMPLETED IN OCTOBER 1973 AND CONSTANT MONITORING AND TESTING FOR RADIONUCLIDES IN THE SOIL AND IN VARIOUS FORMS OF LIFE HAS CONTINUED SINCE. A DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE ON WHICH ISLANDS HAVE ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF RADIOACTIVITY IN ORDER TO PICK RELOCATION SITES. THE DATA IS ALL COMPUTERIZED.

HOWEVER, THE SOCIOLOGICAL RESULTS OF THE EARLY RETURN OF THE 56 PEOPLE ARE FAR LESS PREDICTABLE. THE ENEWETAKESE, WHILE LIVING ON UJELANG, ARE IN RELATIVE ISOLATION EXPOSED TO ONLY OCCASIONAL VISITS FROM FIELD TRIP VESSELS, RAY EXPLAINED.

DURING THE CLEAN-UP PROCESS, THERE WILL BE AS MANY AS ONE THOUSAND SERVICEMEN, TECHNICIANS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL INVOLVED. THERE WILL BE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE DURING

PAGE 04 RUHGSAA8144 UNCLAS,

THE CLEANUP AND ALTHOUGH AMERICANS WILL BE DISCOURAGED FROM VISITING JAPTAN, THIS WILL MEAN SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY BETWEEN THE SIX MILE APART ISLANDS OF JAPTAN AND ENEWETAK. THE ISLANDS OF KWAJALEIN AND EBEYE ARE A SIMILAR DISTANCE APART.

RAY EXPLAINED THAT ERDA'S ROLE IN THE CLEANUP IS ONE OF PROVIDING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT. HE SAID THE THREE MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN ARE THE REMOVAL OF RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS OTHER THAN SOIL; THE MONITORING AND CHECKING OF THE SOIL AND ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE; AND THE PLUTONIUM-237 ON RUNIT ISLAND.

THE TASK OF REMOVING THE DEBRIS IS THE LARGEST IN TERMS OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE JOB. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE 1,250,000 CUBIC YARDS OF NONRADIOACTIVE DEBRIS AND 7,320 CUBIC YARDS OF RADIOACTIVE SCRAP.

THE PRIMARY CONTRIBUTOR OF THE RADIOACTIVITY IN THE METAL IS COBALT-60 WITH A HALF LIFE OF ABOUT TWENTY YEARS.

DEBRIS IS FOUND ON VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE FORTY ISLANDS BUT THE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL IS FOUND ON THE NORTHERN ONES. THE NON-RADIOACTIVE METALS WILL BE ACCUMULATED FOR SCRAP REUSE AND THE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL WILL BE DEEP-SIXED.

PAGE 05 RUHGSAA8144 UNCLAS,

THE PHASE OF THE PROGRAM CONCERNING THE SOIL AND PLANTS IS POTENTIALLY THE MOST HAZARDOUS BECAUSE THE RADIONUCLIDES CAN GET INTO THE FOOD CHAIN. THE TWO MAJOR ELEMENTS INVOLVED ARE STRONTIUM-90 AND CESIUM-137, BOTH EMITTING IONIZING RADIATION IN THE FORM OF GAMMA RAYS AND BOTH HAVING A HALF-

LIFE OF APPROXIMATELY THIRTY YEARS,  
STRONTIUM-90 IS THE MOST DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT CHEMICALLY  
RESEMBLES CALCIUM AND REPLACES IT IN HUMAN BONE MARROW. THE  
COCONUT CRAB, A MAJOR FOOD OF THE ISLANDS, HAS A GREAT DEAL  
OF CALCIUM IN ITS SHELL. WHEN IT MOLTS ITS SHELL PERIODICALLY,  
THE CALCIUM IS STORED IN ITS SYSTEM AND IS RETAINED THERE. IF  
THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF CALCIUM, STRONTIUM-90 CAN REPLACE IT.  
RAVS SAYS THAT THIS PHENOMENON IS A SIGNIFICANT PATHWAY TO  
HARM FOR RADIATION.  
BREADFRUIT AND PANDANUS ALSO MY HARBOR STRONTIUM-90  
IF GROWN IN CONTAMINATED SOIL OR IF IT DRAW ITS WATER FROM  
A CONTAMINATED SOURCE. HOWEVER, CONTINUED STUDY OF ISLAND  
RATS, THE ONLY MAMMALS ON THE ISLANDS, HAS NOT SHOWN ANY  
SIGNIFICANT PRESENCE ON RADIONUCLIDES IN THEIR SYSTEM NOR ANY  
GENETIC MUTATIONS.

PAGE 06 RUHGSAA8144 UNCLAS,  
THE THIRD PROBLEM, THAT OF RADIOACTIVE PLUTONIUM-237,  
EXISTS ON ONLY ONE ISLAND, RUNIT. APPARENTLY A NUCLEAR  
DEVICE CONTAINING PLUTONIUM DID NOT CHAIN REACT BUT WAS  
MERELY BLOWN TO SMITHERS BY THE TRIGGERING DEVICE,  
SCATTERING PARTICULATED PLUTONIUM DUST OVER THE ENTIRE  
ISLAND CREATING 79,220 CUBIC YARDS OF CONTAMINATED SOIL.  
PLUTONIUM EXISTS ALL OVER THE WORLD, USUALLY IN THE  
FORM OF OXIDES, BUT ITS CONCENTRATION ON RUNIT IS  
SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN ELSEWHERE. PLUTONIUM-237 IS AN  
ALPHA RAY EMITTER, FOR EXAMPLE, IT EMITS RAYS THAT TRAVEL  
LESS THAN ONE CENTIMETER AND CANNOT PASS THROUGH EVEN  
ORDINARY CIGARETTE PAPER. IT CAN, HOWEVER, BE TAKEN INTO  
ONE'S BODY THROUGH INHALATION OR THROUGH A CUT AS THE  
PARTICLES ARE KICKED UP AS DUST. PERSONNEL WORKING ON  
RUNIT WILL NEED TO HAVE FACE MASKS AVAILABLE AND NOT HAVE  
ANY OPEN LESIONS.  
POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO THE HUMAN BODY HAS NOT YET BEEN  
SIGNIFICANTLY DETERMINED SO RECOMMENDATIONS ARE THAT THE  
ISLAND OF RUNIT-BE MADE A RESTRICTED AREA, AT LEAST FOR THE  
HALF-LIFE OF PLUTONIUM-237. ITS HALF LIFE? ABOUT 24,220

PAGE 07 RUHGSAA8144 UNCLAS.

YEARS;  
(HARRIS ADDRESSES LEGISLATURE)  
PONAPE, MAR. 22 (PNS)---PONAPE LEGISLATURE SPEAKER  
TOR HARRIS HAS URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO MAKE DECISIONS ON  
THE ISSUES CONFRONTING THEM WHICH ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT  
TO THE SUCCESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF PONAPE.  
WHAT HE AGREE AND VOTE UPON HERE THESE DAYS OF THE  
SESSION WILL PREDICT THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE... SPEAKER  
HARRIS SAID AT THE OPENING OF THE FOURTH REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE FOURTH PONAPE LEGISLATURE RECENTLY IN KOLONIA. HE  
CITED THE DRAFTING OF THE CHARTER OF THE PONAPE DISTRICT

5011334